



Kolbe & Fanning

Numismatic Booksellers

numislit.com

*To turn the pages of
a book long coveted,
to handle an unexpected find,
to fondle a binding,
to dust the edges,
are exquisite joys in which
the hand shares with the eye.*

Octave Uzanne
1852–1931



The Asylum

Vol. 33, No. 1

Consecutive Issue No. 127

Contents

President's Message	2
<i>Marc Ricard</i>	
A Bibliophilic Tribute to Margo Russell in Her Own Words	3
<i>with an Introduction by George Kolbe</i>	
Large-Paper Attinelli Sighting in Boston	18
<i>George Kolbe</i>	
Off the Shelf: The Empire Coin Company	24
<i>David F. Fanning</i>	

Front cover: a large-paper copy of Attinelli's Numisgraphics at the Boston Public Library, open to pages 74 and 75. See the article by George Kolbe in this issue (photograph by David Fanning).



President's Message

It is already time once again for our two-year election of officers and board members, who will take office at our annual meeting in Illinois this August. As you will see on the ballot, almost all of the current officers and board members have agreed to serve another term, with one very notable exception. After many years of dedicated service, David Sundman has decided to step down as NBS Treasurer at the expiration of his current term in August. His stewardship of our accounts and membership roster is the type of work that receives little notice but is essential to the functioning of any organization. We all thank David for everything he has done for hte NBS.

We do not current have a nominee to take his place as Treasurer. The Board is actively seeking his replacement. We ask anyone who would like to help us fill that role to send an email to me at mcricard@yahoo.com for further information.

In the meantime, please send in your ballots for the other positions. Also, please take a look back at the past year's issues of *The Asylum* and cast your votes for the annual Joel J. Orosz and Jack Collins awards.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

—Marc Ricard

A Bibliophilic Tribute to Margo Russell in Her Own Words

With an Introduction by George F. Kolbe

Anyone numismatically involved in the 1960s is keenly aware of the immense impact that *Coin World* had on the course of coin collecting in the United States. For 23 of its first 25 years (1962–1985), Margo Russell was the editor of this ubiquitous weekly newspaper. Its 100,000+ circulation made *Coin World* the most influential numismatic publication in the world.

It was no fluke. The genius of third-generation newspaper publisher J. Oliver Amos, combined with a talented, dynamic, and engaging editor, created a tsunami of interest not only in the United States but throughout the world of coins. Details of Margo Russell's outstanding career are well known and will not be further touched upon here.

However, Margo's indefatigable promotion and in-depth knowledge of numismatic literature is less known, particularly to a generation or more of coin collectors and numismatists who did not experience the pleasure gleaned from carefully reading, cover to cover, the news content and commentary present in each issue of *Coin World*.

A brief digression. In 1980, I was fortunate to purchase the outstanding American component of Charles M. Johnson's numismatic library. Book folk are quite familiar with the name. In 1961 he was elected an American Numismatic Association Governor and served four consecutive terms. Johnson also supervised the highly successful publication of the 1959–1960 four-volume series of *Selections from the Numismatist*. More pertinent to the topic at hand, present in Johnson's library was a duplicated copy of a lecture delivered by Margo Russell on March 30, 1966, at Roosevelt University in New York as part of their accredited two semester course entitled "Numismatics (Coins and Currency): The Story of Civilization." Perhaps Johnson attended in person; perhaps

Russell sent him a copy. It is the only typescript of the presentation that I have ever encountered.

The title is embedded in the end of the second paragraph: “The Need for a Numismatic Library.” It is a most illuminating exposition, particularly since it reveals Margo’s early insights into numismatics in general and its literature in particular. In a few instances, the content is obsolete; overall, it is a tour de force. In the words of David Yoon, the lecture remains relevant “both for what it was saying at the time and because it is also a historical document in its own right now.”

Margo was incredibly friendly to the numismatic book world. She unfailingly promoted the activities of numismatic booksellers and publishers, and printed many updated versions of the “Coin World Book Edition,” both serialized in *Coin World* and *en bloc* in *Coin World Almanac*. This was an extensive compilation by Frank and Laurese Katen, with values. It could not have been of much economic benefit to *Coin World*, but it was a godsend to numismatic bibliophiles. Margo also encouraged me to write a *Coin World* column devoted to numismatic literature, appearing every month or so, which I did for a time. She was an amazing person, more than worthy of the many numismatic accolades later accorded her.

—George Kolbe

THE NEED FOR A NUMISMATIC LIBRARY¹

by Margo Russell

One of my best book friends, Samuel Johnson, with proper credit and thanks to James Boswell, said: “I cannot see that *lectures* can do so much good as *reading the books* from which the lectures are taken.”

With this proper 18th century Johnsonian admonishment, significant challenge to you and humility for me, I think you for the opportunity to talk on one of the most stimulating topics ever offered to any lecturer anywhere, anytime—The Need for a Numismatic Library.

The stimulation provided by earlier lecturers during this course on Numismatics—The Story of Civilization—makes it obvious that a basic numismatic library is necessary if one wants to collect coins as a

¹ *Editor’s note:* Rather than make arbitrary decisions about which editorial alterations to impose on a text that is itself a historical document, we decided simply to transcribe the original typescript as is, despite the occasional errors by her typist.

hobby, or if he wishes to pursue numismatics as an aid to archaeology, art history, or economic history, using numismatics as evidence in these fields. Even the grubby old miser who hoards coins for purely material value must check a coin book to establish the value of his "collection."

The role of numismatics as an auxiliary discipline has sent many students to numismatic books to gain formal training in the field, to actually work on numismatic projects. Some of the finest contemporary monographs in numismatic literature have come as the result of a student responding to numismatic books and lectures.

The American Numismatic Society's 10-week Summer Seminar in New York, for example, provides the opportunity for a select number of university graduate students to receive formal training in the field of numismatics.

Visiting lecturers for the 1965 seminar, for example, included C. H. V. Sutherland, Keeper of Coins, Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford England. To illustrate the caliber of participants, other visiting lecturers were: Alfred R. Bellinger, Professor Emeritus, Yale University; Henry C. Boren, Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina; Richard Brilliant, Associate Professor of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania; Philip Grierson, Reader of Mediaeval Numismatics at Cambridge and Professor of Numismatics and the History of Coinage the [sic] the University of Brussels; and William P. Wallace, Professor of Classics, University of Toronto. Lectures were also given by members of the Society's staff.

The 1965 students came from Bryn Mawr, Columbia, Harvard, McGill, Princeton, Iona, University of Cincinnati, University of California at Los Angeles.

In all of this numismatic study, the numismatic book is the basic tool. I am sure the veteran coin collectors here tonight have heard the advice: "First the book, and then the coin."

This brings me to share a conclusion reached by the staffs of *Coin World* and *World Coins*, the weekly newspaper and the monthly magazine for coin collectors published in Sidney, Ohio. After a succession of dialogues (our staff thrives on them!) this group concluded it is possible to become an outstanding numismatist without owning a single coin!

This judgment was not an idle one. It is chiefly predicated, however, upon the fact that the aspiring student must have access to a numismatic library of balance and scope. He must be willing to dig and digest,

devour photographs and line drawings and conduct painstaking research. This research is of the most complex nature because numismatics itself is complicated. After the books, it would be helpful, we decided, if the scholar had access to the facilities of a numismatic exhibit, preferably that of a museum. But he need not possess a single numismatic item to achieve a working numismatic knowledge if he uses library facilities to the best advantage. Granted, he would be missing what most numismatists believe is ultimate numismatic award—the examination of the coin, the study of its intricacies, the beauty of its patina, to know the pride of ownership or perhaps even the thrill of the find! Gladys Weinberg, editor of *Archeology*, who has spent many sessions participating in historic digs of Greece and Israel, told me her most exciting find occurred the day a centuries-old gold coin gleamed up at her as she worked a dig in Israel.

One of the most moving demonstrations of benefits to be derived from proper use of a numismatic library comes to my mind as I recall an interview with Robert Friedberg in New York shortly before his untimely death in June, 1963.

Friedberg has become immortal in the annals of numismatic literature as the author of two standard references, “Gold Coins of the World,” an illustrated catalog of every gold coin struck in the world since 600 AD, and “Paper Money of the United States,” a classic reference for paper money from three cent to \$10,000 denominations.

Friedberg first had access to the coins, however. Sailors from all over the world came into his father’s small waterfront clothing shop and left exotic coins. But young Friedberg quickly realized his inadequacy. He needed to know more about these coins of the world, even if for no other reason than to receive full valuation when he persuaded *[[sic]]* the New York bank to redeem the coins. So he began to study coin books in the New York Public Library.

“For 10 years, I spent nearly every Sunday at the New York Public Library, studying numismatics,” Friedberg said. He even mastered Oriental numismatics—the most difficult of all areas—through the intensive use of numismatic reference material. He became so involved in the study of coins that it became his life’s work and we are forever indebted to him for the two classic references I mentioned.

Assuming that the desire for numismatic study is present, we need to explore the history of numismatic literature, its extent, its availability

for background purposes. Then we would like to outline what we will call a blueprint for a working numismatic library.

Our keynote in this area is practicality, based on learn-by-doing experience. Make sure your library is functional! When Coin World was founded in 1960, it was necessary to assemble a numismatic library that would be useful, a working tool for our 46-member staff. We have been literally living, breathing and drinking in numismatic books for six years. We are proud to say that our 2,000 volume library which occupies a handsome paneled room is extensive enough to require the services of a professional librarian. So actually, we have been preparing for this lecture this evening for several years! We read with more than passing interest an account of Time Magazine's reference library in the last issue. We know the necessity of such a collection!

Even the novice student becomes quickly aware of the complexities of the subject of numismatics, but we will do our utmost to be comprehensive yet practical in our library blueprint. You can visualize the volume of highly specialized literature based on more than two thousand years of coinage. The few scholars who have had the courage and the intellect to prepare bibliographies have presented the listings by segments, and have included both basic, standard references and the more sophisticated specializations, the "human" as opposed to the "technical" if you like this approach. R. A. G. Carson points out in his "Coins of the World," the modern coin collector's...interests lie in the correct identification and attribution of the pieces which come his way, in the interpretation of the information which the coins can impart, and in the relation of the coins to the particular country and period of history in which his interests lie."

So we can turn our thoughts back a few centuries and consider the Roman and his coins. We find we are indebted to Roman literature for giving us information about the early coin collector.

We know the Romans were interested in coin collecting from a reference in the *Life of Augustus* by Seutonius *[[sic]]* (c. 75) which discloses that the Romans not only collected their own coins, but enjoyed those of other nations.

Dante's poem reveals that Pope Boniface VII (1294-1303) collected coins. Petrarch (1304-74) collected coins enthusiastically, a natural for him because of his poetic, humanistic characteristics, and his love for the classics and antiquity.

One of the earliest numismatic references is an ancient Egyptian papyrus telling of the location of a Greek coin find in 28 AD at the town of Euhemeria in the Fayoum of Egypt. It consisted of 15 silver tetradrachms of Cleopatri. Incidentally, the only true likeness of Cleopatri appears on a coin—and she didn't look like Elizabeth Taylor!

At this point, I wish to mention the newest (1965) and to my mind, the most practical bibliography—"Selected Numismatic Bibliography" by Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, associate curator, Division of Numismatics, Smithsonian Institution.

Since I count her among my dearest numismatic friends, I knew for several years this book was in the works, but the wheels of the government and the Smithsonian Institution grind slowly. Finally, she was given permission to have the book done away from the Smithsonian, and it was published last year by Stack's of New York, a famous family coin dealer firm. It costs \$12.50 and is invaluable.

Mrs. Stefanelli uses the approach that it would be useful to compile a bibliography which would serve as a key to the vast literature of the entire numismatic field.

Mrs. Stefanelli tells us that as early as 300 years ago, there was need to help the collector in his selection of references. In 1664, Philippe Labee [sic] of Paris printed his *Bibliotheca Nummaria* in two parts. A German counterpart, *Bibliotheca Numismatum Antiquiorum*, appeared 30 years later, the work of a German scholar, Burcard Gotthelf Struve. A larger *Bibliotheca Numismatica* was published in Nuremberg in 1760 by Christoph Hirsch. Somewhat later the bibliographies began to become specialized because of the increase in numismatic literature. J. Leitzmann confined his *Bibliotheca Numaria* which he wrote in 1867 to the works from 1800 to 1866. Sir George Hill wrote a handbook on *Coins and Medals* in 1920, arranging it as a special help to students of history, arranging a concentrated bibliography by topics. Philip Grierson of London revised this work in 1924 and this remained the only general aid available to the numismatic researcher until recently.

Because of the time, we must shut our eyes and jet through the years, mentioning British numismatic literature ever so briefly because this quite logically was the stepping stone across the Atlantic to our own nation. I learned last week-end that there was a coin collector on the Mayflower. Even if he is a supposition in the imagination of John J. Pitman, I, too, believe he existed!

“The Virtuoso’s Companion and Coin Collector’s Guide,” published in England in 1795, achieved wide circulation. This helped the proper English gentleman of the day attribute his tokens, according to Q. David Bower’s *[[sic]]* colorful “Coins and Collectors,” a recent book. The English volume even pictured a token showing a mule with the legend, “Asses Chasing after Half-Pence.” So you see there were enthusiastic collectors in those days.

The continental books written in English are delightful.

Stories of early coin collectors are fascinating as they emerge, one by one. Some are gory, too. I recall two French brothers, each so intent upon completing his collection, that one murdered the other to keep him from completing a deal for some coins. In those days, the family prepared each other for burial, but the hapless murderer was found out when the coffin slipped down a flight of stairs, flew open and revealed the murdered corpse, a knife thrust into its back.

I could spent *[[sic]]* hours reading of numismatics of yesteryear---and always I emerge with a pearl. For example the ancient collectors were known to study their coins under magnification---but what do you suppose they used? Droplets of water on the coin! There were no glasses for this purpose in those days!

We need not wonder why our founding fathers did not devote long hours to the hobby of coin collecting and to the preparation of books. They were too busy with self-preservation and carving a nation out of a wilderness.

But even when the time came for a cultural awakening in the United States, numismatic studies were neglected, and there is little to be found concerning coin collecting during the first half of the 19th century.

There was such activity in other areas of art in the intellectually hungry nation, education was foremost in the minds of the country’s leaders, but numismatics seemed to stand still.

It is believed that there were about 300 coin collectors in the United States in the year 1850. Coins became a business in a minute way in the mid-1850’s when several people became full or part-time dealers.

There were some coin collectors during those early years, and they assembled valuable collections, but there was no broad public interest. There was actually no reason for the public to be interested.

A coin catalog gives us background on Joseph J. Mickley, a wealthy Philadelphia piano manufacturer, *[[who]]* was one of the early American

collectors. He began his hobby in 1823 in this way: He decided to find a coin of his birth year—a 1799 cent. He heard these coins were rare, and so he asked his friends to help him. One found a 1798 cent in fine condition, so this was the first of the now-famous Mickley collection. Mr. Mickley didn't have the cent he wanted yet, but something else important had happened—his collecting instincts were aroused.

One story which must be incorrect has it that Mr. Mickley never did find that elusive cent. The reason I say it must not be true is the fact that in 1867 Mr. Mickley was robbed of approximately \$16,000 worth of coins (yes, even in those days), and he immediately decided to sell the rest of his coins at public auction.

That sale catalog lists a cent of 1799 in “very fine, indeed, having been but little in circulation, one of the best ever offered for sale, the rarest of American cents.”

C. Willis *[[sic]]* Betts bought the coin for \$32. The 1798 cent, the first coin in Mickley's collection, brought \$3.50. A 1793 cent sold for \$110.

One of the first coin dealers to receive recognition in this country is Edward Cogan of New York. He came to this country in 1853 from England and settled in Philadelphia to deal in books and pictures.

The period from 1850 to 1860 saw a number of significant changes in the American monetary system, and the beginnings of a large scale public interest in numismatics. These two facts are related—gold was discovered in California in 1848, and market values of gold and silver were changed.

From 1844 silver was flowing from the country at an alarming rate; exporters of coin were keeping the worst coins at home and sending the best pieces abroad. Much of the silver currency in use by 1851 was seriously underweight, and much of the coinage was of foreign manufacture and not controlled by the American government.

At any rate, our forefathers were forced to look at their coins more carefully in the turbulent days because a succession of changes had demonetized a large segment of the older coinage. This, together with man's natural curiosity and collecting instinct, gave coin collecting wonderful stimulation.

A direct outgrowth of this resurgence of interest was the first numismatic organization of national importance—the American Numismatic Society was founded in 1858 and the resultant books launched a serious

contribution to numismatic literature including the *American Journal of Numismatics*, a classic reference.

We must not overlook the fact that the United States Mint at Philadelphia was forming a famous collection in the 1840's and 1850's—also the subject of a book. This collection is now at the Smithsonian Institution's new Hall of Monetary History and Medallion Art. Here, too, a famous numismatic library is being formed.

Jacob Eckfeldt and William DuBois, officials of the Mint published "A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion" in 1842, using illustrations of Christian Gobrecht's engravings—the artist who gave us the graceful flying eagle found on silver dollars of the late 1830's. *Numisma* was an interesting early magazine, and quite rare today. It was founded by a dealer, Ed Frossard, but he had only about a hundred subscribers.

Commemoratives were responsible for the maturity of coin collecting from the early depression days (1934) through 1955. Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalogue* began in the 1930's to join the only other reference books up to this period of widespread distribution—the J. W. Scott catalogs and the Gutttag brothers catalogs.

The Whitman Publishing Company produced its first "penny" boards in the 1930's. Dealer B. Max Mehl of Fort Worth spent thousands of dollars each year on his "Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia," publicity advertising and a coast-to-coast radio program. The *Numismatic Scrapbook* was born during this period in 1935.

Along came the "Guide Book of the United States Coins," the famous Whitman Publishing Company contribution to our hobby. Coin prices spiraled, *Numismatic News* started in Iola, Wisconsin.

Our research has disclosed many, many other publications along the way—*The Coin and Stamp*, a periodical published in 1892 by J. B. Breeding of San Antonio. There was a *Coin and Stamp Journal* in Chicago in 1865, another in Kansas City and New York in 1875 and 1876. In 1877 the *Coin and Stamp Journal* of New York was called "fearless and independent." The same publication was also printed in Meriden, Connecticut, in 1868. The *Coin Journal* was published as recently as 1960 in Texas. A predecessor by the same name appeared in the East in 1878. We learned that Harper's Magazine published "Coins in America" in 1860.

In this decade, 1960, *Coin World* was born during National Coin Week, 1960. You will please pardon a small degree of professional pride,

over-shadowed, believe me, by deep humility and realization of responsibility, that our “baby” has had such a phenomenal growth. The fact that Coin World has grown in such a way in five years, we believe, is a good barometer of the interest and basic health of our hobby. Our sister publication, World Coins, now starting its third year, has nearly 11,500 paid subscribers. Cab’s Coin Collector shares the honors with us—it came into existence April, 1961.

Publication of contemporary numismatic literature is a fast-growing field! For example, here are two excellent books just out since I started my research for this talk. They are Ed Rochette’s “Medallic Portraits of John F. Kennedy” and Virgil Hancock’s revision of Fredrik Schjoth’s “Chinese Currency” along with our own Coin World Token and Medal Editor’s “Carnivol [sic] Panorama,” a Mardi Gras medallic art study by Jay Guren.

The availability and cheapness of contemporary numismatic books will have an important bearing on the future of numismatics.

The finest numismatic references in history have been printed—or reprinted—in the past two decades. This rather implausible statement has been made to me on several occasions. The first time I heard it, I was skeptical. But I’ve done some thinking about it, and am convinced that this is an accurate statement if one refers to a working library, and if one discounts the hundreds of beautiful volumes that are not only references but collectors’ items as well in themselves.

How to go about building a numismatic library? I would do three things:

I would buy as many of the invaluable and at the same time inexpensive standard references in paperback—a few hardback—as I could afford. I keep constant check as to the availability of new books by subscribing to a numismatic periodical.

I would spread the word that I was collecting books among my numismatic friends—these wonderful folks with an extra dimension are always sharing, always helping. Once people in the hobby know you are looking for books, they share duplicates, help you locate books or allow you to borrow freely from their library.

I would join the American Numismatic Association—the \$11 spent for admittance fee and the first year’s dues, and the succeeding annual dues of \$6 can bring many benefits including a monthly addition to one’s

magazine library, *The Numismatist*, with its finely researched material. However, tonight I would like to concentrate on the unique and outstanding library services available to A.N.A. members even if they live in a remote mountain cabin.

Just for a few cents, an A.N.A. member can borrow any of the nearly 4,000 books, thousands of back issues of *The Numismatist*, reprints, catalogs. Currently the A.N.A. librarian, John Gabarron, and a library committee are working to improve and expand this already comprehensive library so as to even better serve the needs of inquiring numismatists. They are spending hundreds of dollars to acquire additional worthwhile material upon the advice of specialists, and will add general and standard works in foreign languages. Only cost to the A.N.A. member is the postage both ways. He is allowed to keep books one month.

The A.N.A. library also offers for sale a series of books ranging from 50 cents to \$50. These range in subject matter from *Charity Tokens of the Netherlands* to *Scott's Silver and Gold Coins of the World*, 1916 edition, from *Coins of Japan* to *Odd and Curious Moneys of the World*. Profits from these sales go to buy new books and repair old ones.

The A.N.A. library came into existence almost the same time as the A.N.A. itself when six men met in Chicago, October 7, 1891. At this meeting it was announced "it will be well enough for you to look up such numismatic literature as you can donate to our library. We must have something for our librarian to do."

S. H. Chaplan [sic] was the first A.N.A. librarian—and the library contained only copies of *The Numismatist* and *Plain Talk*. Today, the librarian and his assistant, his wife, Bernice Gabarron, are kept busy sending out books from Lincoln, Nebraska, to a research-hungry membership. Last year they loaned more than 5,000 books, and sold approximately 2,500 reprints. This is a far cry from 10 years ago when only slightly more than 2,000 books were borrowed. The A.N.A. library catalog itself is a splendid addition to any library.

A fourth step for additions to a numismatic library when one becomes slightly more sophisticated in his research would be to become a member of the American Numismatic Society. The books that one receives as a member is [sic] well worth the associate membership dues of \$10. The A.N.S. library is the most comprehensive numismatic library in America and compares well with the long established ones beyond the

Atlantic. In recent years few serious numismatic studies have been made without consultation of its library which covers every phase of the field.

Since the founding in 1858, the Museum and Library of the Society have grown together. Numismatic books, pamphlets and periodicals, vital to the Society's principal function as stated in its constitution, "The collection and preservation of coins and medals with an investigation into their history, and other subjects connected therewith," have been available in the library from the very beginning.

The A.N.S. library contains 50,000 items—books, periodicals, pamphlets, auction catalogues and fixed price lists—which cover every branch of numismatics.

Especially outstanding are its collections of numismatic periodicals and of European and American auction catalogs. There is also unpublished manuscript material from the hands of both American and European numismatists in a variety of special interests.

The Library of the American Numismatic Society, headed by Richard P. Breaden as chief librarian, is primarily a reference library for the use of the staff, members and the general public interested in numismatics. No books are loaned, as is the case of the A.N.A. The library, open from 9 to 5 PM daily with the exception of Sundays, Mondays and holidays, is located in the Society's buildings facing Audubon Terrace, a court which opens upon Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets, in New York City.

Other special items in the A.N.S. library is a growing collection of lantern slides and microfilm copies of books and articles difficult to obtain in original form. Through exchange for the Society's publications, the Library receives the current publications of all important foreign numismatic societies and institutions.

An innovation inaugurated this year by the A.N.S. is the educational slide program. The first series—Greek—General—of 36 slides is accompanied by a booklet giving commentaries on the individual coins and their historical significance. Cost of the slides and commentaries is \$15. Roman coinage is to be the next in the series.

At this point I would like to tell you that Coin World's parent firm, The Sidney Printing and Publishing Company, not only strongly endorses numismatic education through library resources, it supports two of the programs I have just mentioned with generous financial assistance—the A.N.A. library and the A.N.S. slide program.

I wish time would permit me to describe the popular A.N.A. slide library which is available to member clubs. This, too, is being expanded—the slide custodian is hard put to keep up with demands from A.N.A. member clubs across the country.

You should know of the \$465 Dictionary and Auction Catalogues of the Library of the American Numismatic Society. This organization authorized the G. K. Hall and Company to publish a catalog of its library. This includes the 50,000 items—books, periodicals, pamphlets, auction catalogues and fixed price lists—covering every facet of numismatics. I counted 272 bibliography entries alone.

Thousands of periodical articles and pamphlets have been analyzed with the same treatment and with the same detail as the books. Every significant numismatic periodical from 1930 on has been covered as well as many previous to that year. The catalogue also contains cards which make known the contents of numismatic articles which have appeared in non-numismatic periodicals. Special items include cards for microfilm copies of books, periodical articles and pamphlets impossible or difficult to obtain in original form.

The auction Catalogue is divided into two sections: American and Foreign. It is arranged by dealer with entries chronologically arranged under each dealer, and contains additional entries for collector or collections when known.

These catalogues represent the first complete listing in book form of the catalogued material in the Library of the American Numismatic Society. Supplements will be published in the future in *[[sic]]* and when the need arises.

The catalogue is printed on Permalife paper, developed by W. J. Barrow under a grant from the Council on Library resources.

Complete set of seven volumes \$465 (U.S.) and outside, \$511.50. Auction catalogue alone is \$75. Six volumes, dictionary catalogue, \$440.

The 109,074 cards in the Dictionary Catalogue and the 15,246 cards in the Auction Catalogue have been reproduced offset with 21 cards per 10 by 14 inch page. Volumes are oversewn and bound in Class A. library binding, stamped in gold.

As a blue print for a numismatic library, I would like to distribute copies of Coin World's very recent sixth annual book edition. This bibliography which is one of Coin World's most popular features is confined to 2,000 books published in the United States, and thus accessible in

most cases. The out-of-print works are available in metropolitan libraries; should a collector wish to purchase these books for his own library, he can do two things—he can advertise or watch for advertisements or book lists issued by the various numismatic book dealers. There are only a few in the United States so this is not a difficult task.

The categories covered by this Coin World Book List, compiled by Frank Katen, a Washington numismatic book dealer, include: publications of the A.N.S., the A.N.A., coins of the Americas, ancient catalogues and collections, ancients, descriptive, Biblical coins, bibliography, Byzantine, coin collecting, coins as investment, coins of the world, collections and exhibits, colonial and early American coins, commemorative coins, Confederate money, counterfeiting, dictionaries, directories, indexes, Egypt, Europe, gold coins, Great Britain, Greek, Jewish, juvenile books, Masonic coins and medals, Massachusetts, medals, decorations, mints, money history, Near East, Oriental, paper money, catalogues, colonial, Early American, foreign, fractional currency, state bank notes, periodicals, Philippines, Roman, Seals, tokens, catalogues, U.S. cents, half cents, silver coins, coinage, descriptive.

Now you are equipped with a basic blueprint for a numismatic library. Many people in this room have beautiful, functional libraries—I know. I also know they are the kind of people who are anxious to help someone else down this path of Many Returns!

Q. David Bowers, one of the fine young scholars in numismatics today, says a numismatic library containing even a basic selection of back copies of *The Numismatist*, *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, *Coin Collectors Journal*, *American Journal of Numismatics* and assorted dealers' auction catalogs and price lists is a real treasure trove of information. He spends hours pouring *[[sic]]* over such dusty volumes, and emerges with a series of numismatic gems.

Dave Bowers belongs to the school of enthusiasm for the contemporary numismatic literature—he even goes a step beyond my earlier statement to say that in the past decade there have been more worthwhile numismatic books published than in any comparable period in numismatic history.

It has been said that a university is but a collection of books—likewise numismatic knowledge is but a collection of books—containing thousands of informative segments.

Roosevelt University now possesses the nucleus of a numismatic library, endowed by one of the finest and most honored numismatic organizations in the nation—the Chicago Coin Club. Both deserve congratulations for foresight in many areas, but most particularly in first the books, then the coins!

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, Numismatic Literary Guild, and several other organizations) at the MPC Fest, the International Paper Money Show, and the summer FUN Show. Howard will no longer set up at American Numismatic Association events and the January FUN Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in our society from the table. Journals and applications from other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all of the groups. References are also given out, especially to teachers and scout counselors for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, journals, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact him at hadaniel3@msn.com to make donation arrangements. The best method is to take them to him at one of the shows or events he attends, otherwise you can mail them to him. Howard will reply with a thank-you letter which will describe the donation for tax purposes.

Large-Paper Attinelli Sighting in Boston

George Kolbe

Late last April, David Fanning, George Kolbe, and Joel Orosz were in Boston to attend the award ceremony conferring upon John W. Adams the American Numismatic Society's prestigious Archer M. Huntington Award. The day before, the trio visited Boston Public Library, having made an appointment beforehand with Susan Glover, Keeper of Special Collections, to view an original copy of E. J. Attinelli's classic 1876 American numismatic bibliography, elegantly summarized by its author in a single word "coined" by him: *Numisgraphics*.

In the early 1980s, George Kolbe had visited the library and filled out call cards for the two¹ original Attinellis then listed in their file. After waiting an hour or so, Kolbe was informed that neither copy could be located. Fast forward to April 25, 2015. From a dozen feet away, as Susan Glover took it off the shelf, it could be seen that this Attinelli was something special. It was BIG.

Clearly, it was one of "Ten Copies printed on large tinted paper." It was the first occasion that the bibliophiles present had ever seen an example of this legendary numismatic rarity, of which a dozen or so garden-variety copies are currently known to have survived. The dimensions² of most of those have been recorded at one time or another and range in height from approximately 28 to 26 centimeters (cm), and in width from 18 to 16 cm. The paper stock of regular-edition copies examined features a watermark, a five-pointed star, measuring about one inch from opposing point-to-point.

The BPL card catalogue records the dimensions of its *Numisgraphics* as being "31 cm. tall and 24.4 cm. wide." The paper is "tinted"; no watermarks were detected. While the frontispiece facsimile of the 1828 Watkins broadside in the regular edition is, of necessity, folded vertically, it

¹ One has since been deaccessioned.

² Actual height and width when in original wrappers; height and width of the binding otherwise.



Figure 1. Joel Orosz (*standing*) and George Kolbe (*seated*), locating signature sewing.

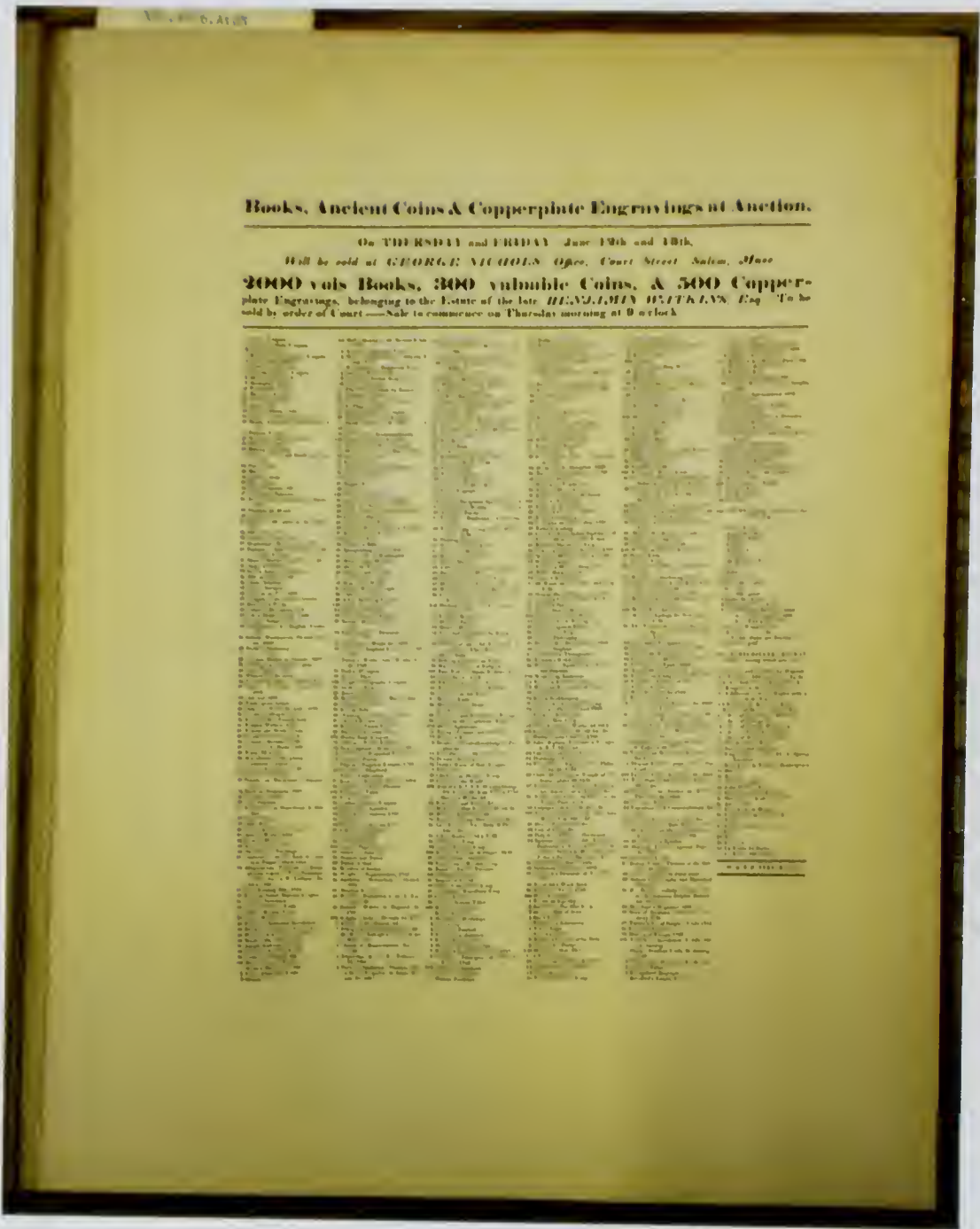


Figure 2. Unfolded frontispiece of facsimile 1828 Watkins broadside

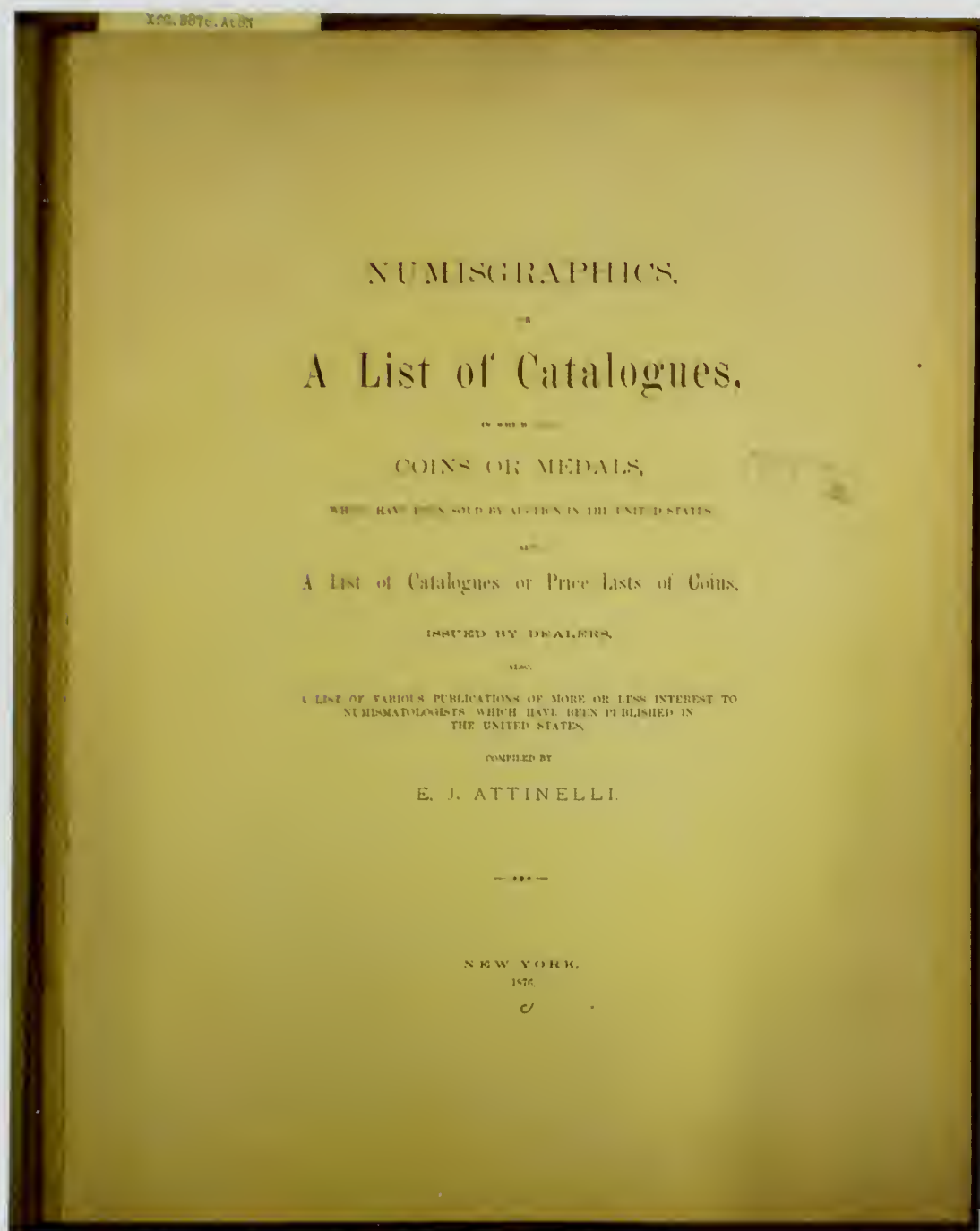


Figure 3. Title page of the large-paper Attinelli.

1897]

74

of Nichols, & C. whose donors placed the subject of his recent visitation of the prison under their patronage. The restrictions to the subscription through the aid of the Visitation Society, rendered his name less conspicuous, the new money on hand in the treasury was not so large as in the year before, and the donors were not so numerous as in the year before.

D-6. J. W. Haseltine T. Birch & Son, Phila.
B. & C. 4 76 1902 \$1837 24

D-15 Field Maria Farmer & Co., N. Y.
1 1 36 629

Let's all do it at once.

Let's all do it at once.

Let's all do it at once.

D-17 Hall A. Maxon-B. Moore, Leavitt, N. Y. 1
P. 5 67 1907 \$43 86

Address Moore, Leavitt, N. Y.

The same is probably the same as the one in the list of donors. The same is probably the same as the one in the list of donors. The same is probably the same as the one in the list of donors.

D-22 J. W. Haseltine, Thomas, Birch & Son, Phila.
1 1 16 369 \$1 00

The same is probably the same as the one in the list of donors. The same is probably the same as the one in the list of donors.

PART II

CATALOGUES AND PRICE-LISTS

Issued by Institution, Under the Press, Philadelphia

1764.

The Charter Laws and Catalogue of the Bank of the Commonwealth of Philadelphia

Communicated to the Press, Philadelphia

Printed by B. F. Smith and P. H. MINT LAM

On page 111-112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

Figure 4 (*opposite*). The large-paper copy of Attinelli open to pages 74 and 75.

is not folded in the large-paper edition, as may be seen in the accompanying illustration. It may also be noted that, even were the margins of a large-paper copy to be severely trimmed, its capacious inner margins³ would betray its true nature. Indeed, width is the key measurement in determining a large paper copy; its height could easily be trimmed to the parameters of a regular copy. The width of a large-paper copy may be rendered indeterminate only if a binder were, horror of horrors, to guillotine the inner margins and oversee the resulting loose leaves.

The illustrations accompanying this notice are derived from photographs taken that fateful day by David Fanning on his iPhone. These images, particularly the page opening and title, eloquently illuminate the true nature of a large-paper Attinelli and may assist others in locating additional examples of what may be considered by some American numismatic bibliomaniacs to be—if a bit sacrilegiously—the equivalent of a Gutenberg Bible printed on vellum.

³ Approximately one inch in regular copies; two inches in large-paper copies.

Off the Shelf:
The Empire Coin Company
David F. Fanning
with additional material by Q. David Bowers

On the evening of April 15, 1958, the Bowers Coin Company and Triple Cities Coin Exchange were combined to form the Empire Coin Company (Figure 1). Probably due to state regulations, the incorporation papers were dated April 1. The principals of the firm were 19-year-old Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy, who had turned 25 on March 31. The venue was the Mermaid Room, a restaurant in the Park Sheraton Hotel (today's Park Central Hotel) in New York City. The room took its name from a revolving stage on which was perched a white mermaid and a grand piano.

Not long afterward, the two young men set up shop in Johnson City, New York, and began building their partnership, which included the publication of a house organ, *Empire Topics*. In April, Bowers was a sophomore at the Pennsylvania State University and Ruddy had an office up a flight of stairs at 258 Main Street in Johnson City. Not long afterward a three-story dry-goods building became available at 252 Main Street, and the partners bought it. Next was a remodeling from top to bottom, including the basement, which was delicately referred to as the "lower level." In time, Dave Bowers had a paneled office on the lower level, which also included a shipping department and two helpers. On the main floor a suite of offices included a reception area for visitors, offices for Hank Spangenberg and Les Zeller, and additional shipping. The carpeted second floor included Jim Ruddy's office, a private office where Dave did cataloging and research, and a kitchen. The third floor was for employee relaxation and included a pool table. For the next two years, until Bowers graduated from Penn State with a degree in finance

in June 1960, he would do cataloging and writing in his off-campus apartment during the school term and would spend summers in Johnson City. Both Dave and Jim traveled extensively to auctions and conventions, sometimes separately, sometimes together, to set up a bourse display.¹

The numismatic house organ could not be said to have been in its heyday in 1958. While *Kosoff's Coin Bulletin* (Abe Kosoff of Encino, California) and *Kelly's Coin and Chatter* (James Kelly of Dayton, Ohio) were still being published, neither publication was particularly "meaty." Bowers and Ruddy would change that, with regularly issued periodicals that combined substantive articles with *Readers Digest*-style tidbits and observations, Q&A columns, and long listings of coins (and books) for sale at fixed price.

The first issue of *Empire Topics* (Figure 2) introduced the firm, noting that Bowers and Ruddy had one previous business venture: the Penn-New York Auction Company sale of July 29, 1957. As they noted in this initial issue:

Realizing that a combination of their two companies would result in a complete numismatic service for collectors, steps in this direction were taken in late 1957 and early this year. Empire Coin Company was incorporated on the first of April, 1958. The combination of facilities, numismatic knowledge, reference libraries, and customer mailing lists made possible a complete numismatic service.

The first issue offered coins for sale, a brief article "From Our Research Department" on a previously unlisted variety of Massachusetts cent discovered by Bowers, and a Coin Quiz of the sort that would become familiar to an entire generation of readers of the later *Rare Coin Review*. Indeed, looking through this first issue, one can easily see how *Empire Topics* is the predecessor publication to the *Rare Coin Review* and *Numismatic Sun*, successfully mixing commerce with education, relaxation, and fun.

If the contents of *Empire Topics* were a step up from most of their competition's publications, so were the coins being offered in its pages. The first issue included a nice selection of colonials, three proof half cents, uncirculated key dates, the 1838 "Gobrecht Half Dollar," a sizeable listing of Hard Times Tokens, and much else. Modern eyebrows

¹ The author wishes to thank Dave Bowers for expanding upon his descriptions of the firm's early days.

James F. Ruddy

— Triple Cities Coin Exchange —

and

Q. David Bowers

— Bowers Coin Company —

Announces the opening of

EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, Inc.

The Empire Coin Company will provide the past clients of the Triple Cities Coin Exchange and the Bowers Coin Company with a complete numismatic service. Further announcements will appear in all leading numismatic publications. Your inquiries are invited.

Our address until June first will be 257 Main Street, Johnson City, N. Y.

After June first we will be located in new modern offices at 252 Main Street, Johnson City, N. Y.

(Empire Coin Company — Continued on Next Page)

Figure 1 a & b. The Empire Coin Company is announced in the pages of the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* (issue of May 1958), with the inaugural issue of *Empire Topics* announced on the facing page.

The First Issue of...

EMPIRE TOPICS

Is Now Ready

EMPIRE TOPICS is a bi-monthly publication of

EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, INC.

Each issue will contain items for sale, Numismatic comments, and articles of interest.

EMPIRE TOPICS will be sent FREE to all requesting it.

We are revising our mailing list. To insure receiving your issues of EMPIRE TOPICS and Auction Catalogues, send us a post card today.

EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, Inc.



252 MAIN STREET

JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK

Phone 9-3101

DESK COPY *Jim*

EMPIRE TOPICS

Issue No. 1

May - June

1958

Empire Topics is the publication of
 Empire Coin Company, Inc., 252 Main Street, Johnson City, New York.
 Telephone 9-3101 Empire Topics is mailed free to all interested collectors.

Empire Coin Company, Inc., was formed on April 1, 1958 by James F. Ruddy and Q. David Bowers. Triple Cities Coin Exchange and Bowers Coin Company were combined to form the new company. Perhaps a brief history of the two combining companies would be of interest.

Triple Cities Coin Exchange was formed in 1953 by James F. Ruddy. Jim specialized in early American coins at first, but soon widened his operations to include the entire United States series as well as a complete offering of numismatic supplies. Advertising on a nationwide basis was started, and soon several thousand customers were being served. In the early part of 1956 the company moved to an office in downtown Johnson City, N.Y. The addition of a secretarial staff made possible an increased sales volume. In the years since 1953 ever increasing sales and a growing list of customers made Triple Cities Coin Exchange one of America's foremost coin companies.



JIM RUDDY

Bowers Coin Company of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was formed by Q. David Bowers. Dave specialized from the beginning in choice United States coins. Like Jim, Dave soon established a mailing list of several thousand customers. Since 1954 Dave has done a considerable amount of numismatic research and has handled most of the great American numismatic rarities.



DAVE BOWERS

Dave and Jim first combined their efforts in the summer of 1957. Their Penn-New York auction attracted wide attention and was an outstanding success. Realizing that a combination of their two companies would result in a complete numismatic service for collectors, steps in this direction were taken in late 1957 and early this year. Empire Coin Company was incorporated on the first of April, 1958. The combination of facilities, numismatic knowledge, reference libraries, and customer mailing lists made possible a complete numismatic service.

Figure 2. The first issue of *Empire Topics*, dated May-June 1958. This was Jim Ruddy's desk copy.

are raised by such offerings as a roll of fifty 1916-D Mercury dimes in Good to Very Good condition for \$950! As notable as some of rarities being offered are, it is also significant that the firm was willing to spill ink describing solid offerings of colonials and Hard Times Tokens, which were far less popular at the time than they are today.

Subsequent issues further developed the model set forth by the initial number. An 1894-S dime was offered in the second issue, which included a Q&A column answering queries by readers and an article on blundered dies by Walter Breen. Coins offered included such rarities as an 1823 quarter and no fewer than sixteen different varieties of encased postage stamps, certainly a rare listing in 1950s house organs. Issue No. 3 continued Breen's article and introduced a new feature: a mail-bid auction within the pages of *Empire Topics*. That the mail-bid sale was not of mediocre stock items should be apparent by lot 1, the Jacob Spiro specimen of the 1786 Date Under Plowbeam New Jersey copper.

By the fourth issue (December/January 1958/59), the publication had hit its stride, with most of the content being listings of coins for sale, but with a combination of entertaining and educational material to buttress it. While the Q&A column focused on basic questions of interest to casual collectors, the issue also included two pages updating Eric P. Newman's work on Fugio cents. Bowers and Ruddy also tried to connect with various types of collectors; while most of the coins offered would be considered "standard" U.S. federal coins, they went out of their way to publish listings of more offbeat collecting areas, such as Civil War tokens, which received a full page in this issue.

This sort of balance continued to be struck in later issues. Issue No. 5 included the firm's second mail-bid sale, as well as the prices realized for their first. Notes "From Our Research Department" continued to be published, as were more fully developed articles by Bowers, Eric Newman, Walter Breen, and Ken Bressett. The discovery of the 1786 Maris 7-C Date Under Plowbeam New Jersey copper was announced, and offered in a later issue for \$950. A Library Edition of the first six issues of *Empire Topics* was planned, to be issued on a subscription basis in a gray cloth binding.² The publication, which had hitherto been distributed free of charge, was also put on a subscription basis, with a nominal \$1 being charged for a year's issues.

² The Library Edition of the first six issues ended up being issued in textured gray card covers.

With the centennial of the Civil War on the horizon, the firm began promoting the collecting of Civil War tokens, with Bowers writing an introduction to the series in Issue 9 of *Empire Topics*. Some nice specimens were offered for sale, including one struck over a U.S. dime for \$105 and a collection of 1000 different tokens for \$995. Not stated was that Bowers, on a visit with Civil War token expert George Fuld, who at the time lived in Wakefield, Massachusetts, had bought thousands of tokens from Fuld. Most were Mint State. Numismatic books were also promoted in *Empire Topics*, with the usual standard works being offered as well as such exotica as a Heath *Counterfeit Detector* (\$47.50) and a run of sixty-seven different Mint Reports for \$157.50.

Bowers and Ruddy discontinued their partnership in 1960, with Ruddy publishing Issue 11 (Oct.–Nov. 1960) of *Empire Topics* under his own name. Bowers relocated to the O'Neil Building in nearby Binghamton where he published two issues of the *Bowers Review*, the first dated November–December 1960 (Figure 3). These essentially continued where *Empire Topics* left off, with little disruption to the editorial voice or overall vision of the publication. Walter Thompson wrote an article on “The First United States Mint” in Issue 2, and rarities for sale included a 1876-CC 20-cent piece and an 1868 large cent numismatic delicacy made secretly at the Mint in the exact style of the 1857 Braided Hair cent. In actuality, Bowers had bought *four* 1876-CC 20-cent pieces from dealer Ben Douglas (who had a little hoard of this rarity and also sold three or four to John J. Ford, Jr., of the New Netherlands Coin Company). Bowers had married in June of 1960, and his new wife Mary is credited as the associate editor of these issues.

The break with Ruddy was temporary, and the pair rejoined the following year. Marking the new beginning, they renamed their publication the *Empire Review*, but numbered the first issue 14 to acknowledge the 11 issues of *Empire Topics* and two issues of the *Bowers Review* that had come before (Figure 4). The first issue of the *Empire Review* announced the acquisition of the Major Lenox R. Lohr collection of U.S. pattern coins, which the firm offered in a separate fixed-price catalogue (a somewhat scarce item). Later, Bowers would tell the story of this collection. It had been bought intact by Abner Kreisberg, the Beverly Hills dealer, who could not find a ready buyer. Over 1,000 patterns were included, among which were seven different ones of 1792! The terms of sale were that \$100,000 total cost be paid in three yearly installments,

THE BOWERS REVIEW

The Bowers Review, copyright Bowers Coin Company, Inc., 1960, is published by Bowers Coin Company, Inc., 70 Court Street, Binghamton, N. Y. Subscription: \$1 for six issues, 25¢ per copy. Permission to use information printed in The Bowers Review may be obtained from the editor.

Editor and President of

Bowers Coin Co., Inc. . . . Q. David Bowers
Associate Editor Mary M. Bowers
Subscriptions and Distribution D. M. Furlong

ISSUE NO. 1

NOV.-DEC., 1960

Welcome to Bowers Coin Company's new publication, The Bowers Review. Future issues of The Review will be issued as often as time permits . . . from five to eight times a year. This issue includes a number of interesting features—a questions from readers' column, a quiz, notes and comments as well as an extensive presentation of rare coins for sale.

Bowers Coin Company is located in Binghamton, a medium-sized city about two hundred miles northwest of New York City. We are located at 70 Court Street, in the heart of the downtown area in Binghamton's most modern office building. Our offices occupy a large percentage of the sixth floor. Our new quarters were designed to our specifications and include a library, conference rooms, a mailing room, a reception room and a sales office. Our new printing department, complete with an offset press, enables us to print most of our mailing literature. We invite you to stop by for a visit, should you ever be in our area on either business or pleasure.

One of our main interests has always been numismatic research. Your editor has, in the past, contributed to many articles and books on subjects ranging from Colonial coins to patterns. At the present we are completing a manuscript for a new reference concerning the 1787-8 copper coinage of Massachusetts. Following the trend of thought that numismatics is interesting in addition to being a good investment, we will feature research articles from time to time. Articles on Proof coins and Confederate coinage are slated to appear in the near future.

This issue contains a wide selection of priced items from our stock. Items are included in all conditions and price ranges. As public interest centers on rarities we are pleased to offer for your consideration such items as the rare 1796 half cent, the extremely rare 1863-L transitional pattern cent, the 1867 with rays Proof nickel, the classic 1876-CC twenty cent piece,

1876-CC Twenty-Cent Piece



We are privileged at this time to offer one of the most outstanding rarities of American numismatics, the 1876 twenty-cent piece of the Carson City mint. This coin is in *perfect Brilliant Uncirculated condition*.

This coin is unpriced in the Guidebook with the notation "14 known." The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins notes that only nine or ten pieces are known. Compare these figures to the fourteen known specimens of the 1804 dollar. This represents a most important opportunity to add the 1876-CC twenty-cent piece to your collection. Here is a coin which takes a place with such famous and nearly unobtainable rarities as the 1913 nickel and the 1804 dollar.

It is extremely difficult to price a rarity of this calibre. Past auction prices are irrelevant (for example, the last original 1804 dollar sold at auction realized \$10,000. It is perhaps worth double, triple or more than that amount today). We mention as being of possible interest the figures of \$12,000 and \$15,000 as the value of the 1876-CC twenty-cent piece. One figure is the estimate we have seen in an auction catalog; the other, the estimate of the owner of another specimen of this coin. The most important aspect of the offering of this coin is not the price asked, but the opportunity to acquire an item of this nature.

The addition of this coin to your cabinet will place your collection in a class with the foremost American private and museum exhibits. We offer the 1876-CC twenty-cent piece in perfect Brilliant Uncirculated condition for nine thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars.

the elusive silver dollar of 1858 and one of the seven or eight known specimens of the 1824 half eagle. Whether your numismatic budget is a few dollars or several thousand dollars we are sure you will find a number of items to be of interest. We have included coins in all denominations, conditions and price ranges. An order blank and postpaid envelope are included for your ordering convenience. We will look forward to receiving your correspondence.

Figure 3. Issue 1 of the *Bowers Review*. Upon the reestablishment of the Empire Coin Company, this would become No. 12 in the periodical's numbering system.

D.F.F.

J.F.R.

THE EMPIRE REVIEW

The *Empire Review*, copyright Empire Coin Company, Inc., 1961, is published by Empire Coin Company, Inc., 70 Court Street, Binghamton, New York. Subscription: \$1.00 for six issues.

Editor Q. David Bowers
Associate Editor Mary M. Bowers
Subscriptions and Distribution D. M. Furlong

ISSUE NO. 14 AUG.-SEPT., 1961

Welcome to the *Empire Review*, the publication of Empire Coin Company, Inc. The *Empire Review* is the successor to *Empire Topics* (eleven issues published 1958-1960) and to *The Bowers Review* (two issues published 1960-1961). To maintain a continuous numbering system for those who have collected the previous thirteen issues of *Empire Topics* and *The Bowers Review* we are starting the numbering system of our new publication with #14.



Q. DAVID BOWERS

Editor, *The Empire Review*
Secretary-Treasurer, Empire Coin Co., Inc.

The *Empire Review* will be issued at intervals during the year. We plan to issue from three to five issues a year, as time permits. The subscription fee of \$1.00 for six issues is on an

issue basis, not a calendar basis. This dollar charge helps to defray the costs of making an Addressograph plate and preparing, printing and mailing the six issues to you. Needless to say, our cost of sending six issues to you is considerably higher than the \$1.00 subscription charge. If you become an active Empire Coin Company customer your subscription will be renewed free of charge.



JAMES F. RUDDY

President, Empire Coin Co., Inc.

Our modern offices are located in one of the largest buildings in downtown Binghamton, New York. Our expanded facilities will allow us to operate a larger and more complete rare coin business. Our library, one of the finest American numismatic libraries in existence, will permit increased research in various series.

This issue of the *Empire Review* contains an article, *The Seizure and Operation of the New Orleans Mint by the Confederacy*, by Walter Thompson. Mr. Thompson has done considerable research in the National Archives and has published his findings in numismatic magazines, particularly the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*. Mr. Thompson's present article is particularly appropriate to the Civil War centennial.

Figure 4. The August-September 1961 issue of the *Empire Review*, successor to both *Empire Topics* and the *Bowers Review*, and numbered 14 to allow for the continuous numbering of the predecessor publications.

with no interest. Dave had specialized in patterns for many years (and from Abe Kosoff and Sol Kaplan had purchased many of the King Farouk coins in 1954). Dave sent out letters, sold a lot, then issued the fixed-price catalog. The response was fantastic, and the debt to Kreisberg was paid in its entirety a few months later. This issue also offered an 1841 quarter eagle, one of five then known to be in collectors' hands, for \$15,000. The coin had "walked in" when an upstate New York lady found it among her family's possessions.

While the company's magazine offered many coins for sale, the vast majority of sales were accomplished by private treaty plus advertising in the newly formed (1960) *Coin World*, where Empire Coin Company often ran multiple pages as well as some separate pull-out sections. In 1961 the company announced it was the first in the world to have retail sales cross the \$1 million mark. A lot of this was due to the loyalty of its clients. Dave and Jim tried their best to deliver high-quality coins that had solid value. The aspect of private sales is often overlooked by researchers today, who rely on auction offerings to trace the provenance of certain coins. In actuality, as many or more transactions occur privately and are not announced.

The March–April 1962 issue (No. 15) mentioned world travels by both principals of the firm, with that of Bowers resulting in the acquisition of an outstanding collection of English coins. Indeed, for much of the remainder of the firm's existence, English coins would become one of their specialties. A special relationship was established with Douglas Liddell, who managed Spink & Son in London. Empire was Spink's largest-volume buyer at the time. In a curious reversal, Liddell mentioned that many American tourists coming to London sought to find bargains in United States coins that had somehow found their way there. Empire made many shipments of Indian cents, silver dollars, and other coins to Spink's to satisfy that demand! In a typical trip to England, Dave and Jim would rent a suite of hotel rooms in London and spend two weeks buying coins. Purchases were often remarkable—such as the unique copper pennies of 1808 and 1954, six complete cased British proof sets of 1826, and two complete sets of Maundy money, to mention some highlights. Issue 15 also included significant U.S. pattern coins remaining from the Maj. Lohr collection, as well as the collection of Talbot, Allum & Lee cents and mulings assembled by George Fuld. The 1841 quarter eagle, repriced at \$17,500, is the highlight of the U.S. federal offerings.

The regular U.S. series continued to be the backbone of later listings, with Issue 16 including some remarkable U.S. copper coins (such as both varieties of 1796 half cent, an Uncirculated chain cent, and Sylvester Crosby's 1799 cent), and Issue 17 including several outstanding gold rarities. True to form, though, Bowers and Ruddy continued to go out of their way to showcase a variety of more arcane areas of U.S. numismatics, with listings of encased postage, die trials, shell cards, Fractional Currency sheets, and so forth.

The last two issues of the *Empire Review* were somewhat different than their predecessors. The first issue of *Empire Topics* had been twelve pages long; the second was twenty pages in length and came out a couple months after the first. Most of the following issues were between twenty and twenty-eight pages and were published every two or three months or so. Once the publication became the *Empire Review*, however, issues became longer and less frequently published. No. 14 was thirty-six pages long; No. 15 was forty pages long and came out about six months later. The business was growing, and priorities were shifting. More than a year passed between issues 16 and 17.

Issue 18 was published with a July–August 1963 cover date and is a massive seventy-two pages long. Issue 19 was dated April–May 1964 and is the same length. The most notable difference in content in these issues is that the listing of coins for sale has been greatly expanded and now covers world coinage as well as U.S. coinage. British coins are given special attention. Beside an introduction, a Coin Quiz is the only editorial matter in No. 18; a Q&A column joined the quiz for the final issue, but there are no real articles to be found. One can almost feel how busy the Empire staff must have been during this period by reading these issues.

The company continued its activities into 1965, publishing the *Empire Investors Report* and various price lists. The *Empire* series ceased publication shortly before Bowers and Ruddy joined forces with other coin dealerships and individuals in 1965 to form Paramount International Coin Corporation, the first publicly owned American coin firm. The world had certainly not heard the last from the pair, however, and Bowers and Ruddy Galleries was established in 1971 in Hollywood, California—a story for another day.

Numismatic Bibliomania Society

President

Marc Ricard

mcricard@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Elizabeth Hahn Bengé

lizzieitalia@yahoo.com

Treasurer

David M. Sundman

P.O. Box 82

Littleton, NH 03561

dsundman@littletoncoin.com

Board of Governors

John W. Adams, Dover, MA jadams@ahh.com

Leonard Augsburger, Vernon Hills, IL leonard_augsburger@hotmail.com

David Fanning, Gahanna, OH df@numislit.com

Dan Hamelberg, Champaign, IL danhamelberg@aol.com

Sydney Martin, Doylestown, PA sfmartin5@comcast.net

P. Scott Rubin, Lawrenceville, NJ numislit@msn.com

W. David Perkins, Centennial, CO wdperki@attglobal.net

Editor-in-Chief, The Asylum

Elizabeth Hahn Bengé (2014-15)

Managing Editor, The Asylum

David Yoon, 41-22 54 Street #9, Woodside, NY 11377 nbsasylum@gmail.com

Editor, The E-Sylum

Wayne Homren, Ashburn, VA whomren@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2015

Full page	\$120
Inside front, inside or outside back cover	\$125
Half page	\$75

Discounts for multiple issues are available. A full-page ad for one year is \$360.

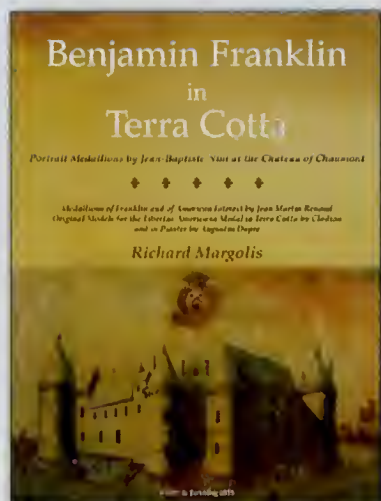
The Asylum (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor by e-mail or on CD. Authors, please put your name(s) on all submitted material.

All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

NBS Membership: in the United States, \$20.00 annual dues for standard mail, \$25.00 for first-class mail; outside the United States, \$30.00. New members receive one back issue plus all new issues upon publication. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Treasurer.



Kolbe & Fanning
Numismatic Booksellers
numislit.com



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN TERRA COTTA

*Portrait Medallions by Jean-Baptiste Nini
at the Chateau of Charmont*

Benjamin Franklin in Terra Cotta discusses the numerous varieties of Nini medallions, methods of distinguishing originals from aftercasts, and the artistic context within which these pieces were created. Thoroughly documented and useful to both the novice as well as the expert, this handsome, large-format volume is finely illustrated throughout in full color. Available for \$195 plus shipping.

"Benjamin Franklin in Terra Cotta... is an incredibly thorough piece of scholarship... [it] fills an important void in the numismatic literature surrounding Nini's Franklin plaques and related items."

— John Sallay, President,
Medal Collectors of America

"There is much to commend in this book by Richard Margolis... The result of over forty years of painstaking research by the author, the volume is essentially a catalogue raisonné of the artist's most popular series of bas-relief portraits."

— Anne Bentley, Curator of Art,
Massachusetts Historical Society

"Brilliant!"

— John W. Adams

"Scholars, art historians, curators and collectors will greatly benefit by acquiring Mr. Margolis's thorough and amply illustrated volume. Kudos to Kolbe & Fanning for producing a beautifully printed reference work that Franklin would certainly have found useful."

— Roy E. Goodman, Emeritus Curator
of Printed Materials, The American
Philosophical Society Library & Past President,
The Friends of Benjamin Franklin



HERITAGE[®]

COIN & CURRENCY AUCTIONS

2015 AUCTIONS AND CONSIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES

April 22-27, 2015
CSNS Chicago

May 12, 2015
New York

The Eugene H. Gardner
Collection, Part III
U.S. Coins

June 3-6, 2015
Long Beach
U.S. Coins Deadline: April 20

July 9-13, 2015
**Summer FUN
Orlando**

U.S. Coins Deadline: May 26

August 12-17, 2015
ANA Chicago
U.S. Coins Deadline: June 29

September 16-19, 2015
Long Beach
U.S. Coins Deadline: August 3

October 27, 2015
New York
The Eugene H. Gardner Collection, Part IV
U.S. Coins

THE WORLD'S LARGEST NUMISMATIC AUCTIONEER

HERITAGE
AUCTIONS HA.com

Annual Sales Exceed \$900 Million | 900,000+ Online Bidder-Members

3500 Maple Ave. | Dallas, TX 75219 | 800-USCOINS (872-6467) | HA.com

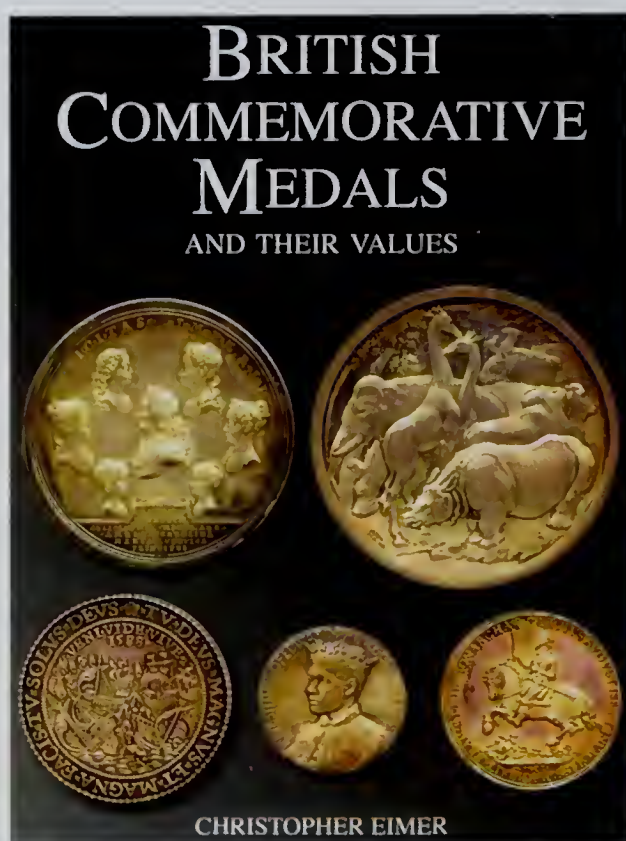
DALLAS | NEW YORK | BEVERLY HILLS | SAN FRANCISCO | HOUSTON | PARIS | GENEVA

Paul R. Minshull #16591. Paul R. Minshull #LSM0605473; Heritage Auctions #LSM0602703 & #LSM0624318BP.
K. Guzmán #0762165; Heritage Auctions #1364738 & SHDL #1364739 17.5%; see HA.com. | 35432

CHRISTOPHER EIMER

COINS & MEDALS BOUGHT AND SOLD

(established 1971)



326 pp. 2000 colour images. Price £75



Christopher Eimer

P.O. Box 352, London NW11 7RF

United Kingdom

telephone (+44) 208 458 9933

A selection of interesting items available online

www.christophereimer.co.uk